



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS & FRIENDS
OF THE FIRST COAST MIATA CLUB

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3rd Annual Jim Padgett Ice Cream Drive

When: Saturday, July 18, 2020

Start at: Baldwin Park & Ride, 801 W Beaver St, Baldwin FL 32234

Meet: 6:00 pm; Depart: 6:30 pm

The drive will take us thru forested curvy roads into farm and cattle country terminating at POWELL'S DAIRY FREEZE in the thriving metropolis of Starke, FL.

The first half of the drive will be thru uncharted territory for most of our club. After a pit stop at the Hardee's in Lake Butler we will continue our journey to Starke on proven fun roads to Powell's for some social distancing FUN and ICE CREAM !

SEE ALL YOU MIATAPHILES ON THE 18TH

Combined July and Annual meeting currently scheduled for July 25th at the Jumbo Shrimp game had to be rescheduled due to uncertainty of Minor League Baseball. Jim has arranged for our reservation to stand for next season, and I've secured the pavilion at Alpine Groves Park in Switzerland.

This will be a "Brown Bag" lunch,, as in bring your own food and non-alcoholic drink. That way, we won't have to worry about spreading Covid-19. We can start to arrive at 12:30 PM. I will start the business meeting at 2:00 PM to give us some time to have lunch and socialize before we start the meeting. We have to be cleaned up and out of the pavilion by 5:00 PM.

The address for the park is 2060 FL-13, Switzerland FL 32259.

Hope to see as many of you there as possible!

Flashback Trip: Catty Shack Drive on June 15, 2019





2020 Mazda MX-5 Miata RF Luggage Test | It's not the size that counts ...

... It's actually the shape. Comparing the Miata to sports cars of similar trunk volume

The Mazda Miata would not be my first choice for a road trip car. Would probably be in the bottom 10, in fact. The interior fits me like a coffin, the seats pinch my back and the amount of passenger legroom is laughable. It's not exactly the most serene car, either.

But hey, there are sadists out there who may want to venture somewhere in it. I work with some of them. So, as they were the ones who requested this, here is the answer to the question: how much luggage fits in the Miata's trunk?



Alright, so on paper, the Miata RF has 4.48 cubic-feet of trunk volume. The regular soft top Miata has 4.59. Does that different matter? Probably not.

However, when talking about trunks in this diminutive size range, the shape is the ultimate factor. For instance, the Porsche 911's 4.6-cubic-foot trunk is basically the same as the Miata's, yet it's narrower and deeper. My BMW Z3's trunk is 5 cubic-feet, yet it's wider, longer and much shallower. On paper, they'd seem to be the same, but you can't fit the same items within them.

This bag is 26 inches long, 16 wide, 11 deep and you'd have to check it in at the airport (remember those?!?). It BARELY fit inside the Miata. The ever-so-slightly larger gray version of this bag I have did not fit.



By contrast, it slid very easily into my Z3, the remaining area was far more easily accessed due to the wider trunk opening. However, this bag wouldn't fit at all in the 911's trunk as the space isn't wide or long enough.



Alternatively, shown to the left, I could stack two carry-on roller bags (one 24L x 15W x 10D, the other 23L x 15W x 10D). This time, the tight fit came from height.

By contrast, these two would fit with room to spare in the deep 911 trunk. They also fit in my Z3 (below right), but were side-by-side and just BARELY fit due to the trunk's much shallower depth. Basically, the Z3 was worst here.



In other words, if we were ranking these three cars that theoretically have equal trunk volumes (Miata, Z3 and 911), the order would differ depending on what you were carrying.

Here's one more data point: grocery bags. By relying more on depth than length or width, you'd have to stack bags atop each other in the Miata and 911. That's bad for eggs, bread and bananas. The wider and longer Z3, on the other hand, can safely carry a shocking number of grocery bags (many a Target run has proven this).

So there you have it, that's what can fit in a Miata's trunk.

What have you been able to fit in your Miata's trunk?

Hot from the Internet!



FCMC Events Calendar

- **July 18 - 6:00 P.M. 3rd Annual Jim Padgett Drive to Powell's Dairy Freeze**

To beat the summer heat, we will be driving in the evening to our favorite ice cream spot in Starke: Powell's Dairy Freeze. Take the road less travelled, but take it in the evening! See all the details on the front page. Come out and beat the heat with your fellow Miataphiles with some ice cream!

- **July 25 - 12:30 P.M. Monthly Club Meeting & Annual Officer Elections**

The meeting will be held at Alpine Groves Park in Switzerland (not the country but the town of!). Details are on the front page of this Road Runner and are posted on our Facebook page and our club website! See you there!

- **August 11 - Monthly Club Meeting**

This will be fleshed out at the July meeting/Elections. Time to get creative. Show up at the July meeting to throw out your suggestions! More details coming soon!

- **We have events planned for the rest of the year so don't miss out! Please renew your membership and join us at the monthly meetings. Your input is important. The club is only as good as you!**

Happy July Birthdays to:

**Patrick Graham, Colin Busch,
Carole Bush & Renee Parenteau**

Welcome To Our Newest Members:

Bonnie Dela, Joshua Torres & Gail Finneran

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We're on the Web! Check us out!

Web Page: www.firstcoastmiataclub.org

Facebook: facebook.com/firstcoastmiataclub

'Finnish Space Program' tries dynamite to send a car into space

How hard could it possibly be to send a ship into orbit? NASA has been doing it for years, and SpaceX has gotten in on the spacefaring fun. The latest group to attempt liftoff hails from Finland, with a bright yellow "spacecraft" that started life as a little silver Hyundai Getz hatchback. The "Finnish Space Program," as the YouTubers from "Beyond the Press" (so named since it's a spinoff of the wildly successful Hydraulic Press Channel) are calling themselves, decided dynamite was the proper means of propulsion. And who are we to argue?

As seen in the video, the dynamite certainly seems to have the explosive energy to launch the unmanned (thank God!) shuttle off the ground. Unfortunately, as the narrator says in the video, "Okay, so there was something wrong with the launch ... and I think it didn't went to space." Truer words have never been spoken.

Judging from the aftermath — check out the various camera views around the seven-minute and nine-minute marks — the crew is going to have to start from scratch for any further attempts. Better luck next time, fellas. And we do really hope that there will be a next time.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=520&v=KQiEodXfZE&feature=emb_logo